

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Consideration of the captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is requested.

The specification has been amended to refer to the priority application.

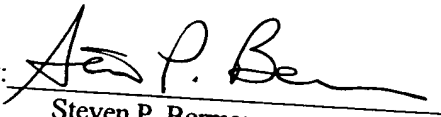
Enclosed herewith is a Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney to be filed in connection with this application. Also enclosed is a certified copy of the priority application (EP 98203148.6) filed September 18, 1998.

Early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is/are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification:**

Page 1, between the title and line 4, insert the following:

-- Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation application of PCT/EP99/06776, filed September 14, 1999 which application claims priority from EP 98203148.6, filed September 18, 1998. --